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# ✠ Contra Mundum ✠

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Volume III, Issue 10

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The Congregation of St. Athanasius - Roman Catholic, Anglican Use

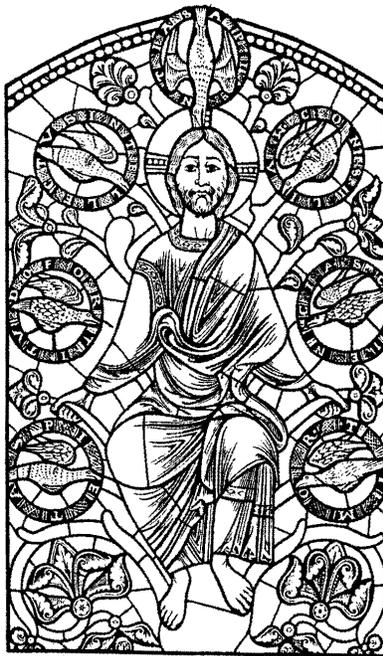
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## NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

**C**HRISTIAN salvation is never only an individual experience. From the very start, the disciples knew the Risen Christ in community, and the Gospel has ever since been preached by a community of believers to an ever-widening circle. Notice that in Acts 2:37-38 when the preaching has touched their hearts, the crowd asks "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" And the answer is not "Believe, and be saved" but "Repent, and be baptized." To receive salvation in Christ's Name is to accept invitation into the community of believers, the Church, which already exists. Christian salvation is experienced and known nowhere else.

The basis of the community does not focus on the members as an idealized holy club! The community owes its existence entirely to the initiative and achievement of Almighty God acting in the Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of the Beloved Son. Out of that common relationship to Jesus Christ comes the common mind and organization of the Church, even a common expression of fundamental faith despite world-wide differences of



culture and language.

Yet the individual is not lost in the community. The Easter Gospels make it abundantly clear that Peter, Mary Magdalene, Cleopas and his wife, and Thomas have a personal relationship to the Risen Christ as Lord and Savior. Conversion is essentially an individual experience. But when we come, it is into a community of those who have made the same response, drawn by the love of God.

The Epistle on Easter Day reminds us of the imperfect realization in practice of what the Church exists to be. It is a reminder also that the life of the individual member of Christ falls constantly short of the high aspiration that is set before us. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek

those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col. 3:1-3)

We are exhorted in Eastertide to become in practice what we already are by virtue of Christ's victory. Our present unity with Our Lord is real, but it is pitifully incomplete. We have here "the first fruits of the Spirit" but "groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of our body." (Rom. 8:23)

We are privileged here and now to share in the new experience of life in Christ. Because of the Easter victory, we already experience to a limited degree, the life beyond the grave, in His fellowship and forgiving love to us and shared by us with our neighbor. Because of Easter we have Christian hope, looking for the "day" when death will not only be overcome in principle but "swallowed up in victory." (I Cor. 15:54).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (I John 3:2) That is the ultimate hope of the Christian faith, made possible by the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. Alleluia!

FATHER BRADFORD

## SHORT NOTES

Congratulations to Scott and Lucinda Seago on the birth of their son and first child Nicolas David Seago, who was born in St. Elizabeth's Hospital on April 17th.

Many thanks to all those parishioners who remembered the Bradford family with greetings or gifts at Easter. Your kindness and support is always much appreciated.

Our spring parish retreat is being held at St Benedict Abbey, Still River on May 4-6. The retreat conductor is The Revd Romanus Cessario, OP. Registration for the retreat was closed on April 18th. The congregation will offer a fall retreat weekend. Watch for details soon.

On Sunday May 6th we welcome Fr Joseph F. Wilson as our celebrant and preacher at Mass. He is a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn and a friend of our congregation from even BEFORE we were officially a congregation, and is well-known to almost every member.

Father Bradford will be in Rochester, New York for the weekend of May 19-22. He will offer Evensong and Mass in the Anglican Use and spend time visiting with both Catholics and non-catholics who support our work. Please keep this time in your prayers.

If you have not already done so, please return your Lenten COIN FOLDERS so that we may total up the offering and send it on to the work of Catholic Charities.

Pentecost is Sunday, June 3rd. If you have a foreign language skill you might consider reading the lesson at Mass, Acts 2:1-11, in that language. Please speak to the chaplain if you are interested.

Fliers were mailed out last month with details of this year's bus trip organized by parishioner Sarah Weekes. Dates are August 29 - September 3, a seven day excursion to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Registration and deposit is due May 1st.

Speaking of South Carolina, Fr & Mrs Bradford recently visited Fr & Mrs James Parker in Charleston. Fr Parker was Cardinal Law's secretary for the Pastoral Provision for many years before returning to his native Charleston. He is pastor of Church of the Holy Spirit on John's Island, and the article in this edition of the parish paper THE PRESENCE OF MARY was Fr Parker's column some years ago in his parish paper.

Many thanks to Fr George Greenway for coming to Boston as our celebrant and preacher on April 29th. Father Greenway is a priest of the Diocese of Springfield and always enjoys his visits to us. We wish he lived closer!

The League of Catholic Women holds its 65th diocesan congress on Thursday, May 10 at the Holiday Inn in Dedham. Membership is open to all women of the Archdiocese of Boston. Details are to be found in a flier in the rear of the chapel.

Ordinations to the Priesthood take place on Saturday, May 26th at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

The Catholic Alumni Club of Boston is not for graduates of Catholicism! It is a social organization made up of over 500 single and active Catholic professionals ages 21 to 65. The organization sponsors a wide variety of social and religious activities. For more information you may call 978-454-0206 or e-mail at [cacofboston@netway.com](mailto:cacofboston@netway.com).

# Saint of the Month



## St. Pancras

?290-304

St. Pancras was martyred in 304, before the Nicene Creed (the Council of Nicëa was in 325 A. D.). Such an ancient hero of the Church is Pancras that the story of his death is hidden in the smoke and legends of earliest Christianity. The story goes that he was a Phrygian orphan boy, brought to Rome to be raised by an uncle after his parents died.

Pancras and his uncles were Christian converts, both of whom suffered under the wrath of the Emperor Diocletian, as did many others. Pancras was only fourteen years

old when he was beheaded, and he is remembered in the Church calendar with others martyred at the same time— Sts. Nereus, Achilles, and Domitilla.

St. Gregory the Great dedicated a monastery at Rome to Pancras. When St. Augustine of Canterbury came to Christianize England, he dedicated the first church he established to him. Pope Vitalian sent relics of St. Pancras to England in 664, to be enclosed in the altar of that church, and in others. Six ancient churches in England were named for him, including one in North London.

This North London Church lent its name to St. Pancras cemetery and to St. Pancras Station, a major railway terminus in the 19th century, which appears in the Sherlock Holmes stories and remains in service today.

St. Pancras is especially concerned with the sins of false witness and perjury, because according to legend, those who swore falsely in the presence of his relics were exposed and punished. He is a patron saint of children, and of those suffering from cramps and headaches.



“The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ’s wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.”

GREGORY THE GREAT



## The Presence of Mary

An ancient Russian legend relates that Mary was not in heaven when the apostle St. Andrew died. Looking frantically for her, he asked an angel, “Where is she?” The angel responded, She is not here. She is in the world drying the tears of her suffering children.”

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II said,

*“Mary is present in the memorial—the liturgical action—because she was present at the salvific event.*

*She is present at every baptismal font, where in faith and in the Spirit the members of the Mystical Body are born to Divine life, for by faith and the power of the Spirit she conceived their Divine Head, Christ.*

*She is present at every altar, where the memorial of the Passion-Resurrection is celebrated, because she was present—clinging with her whole being to the design of God—at the historico-salvific event of the death of Christ.*

*She is present at every cenacle, where by the imposition*

*of hands and the holy anointing the Spirit is imparted to the faithful, because she was present at the Pente-costal effusion of the Spirit.*

*With both Christ, the High Priest, and the Church, the community of worship, Mary is continually united—in the salvific event and in its liturgical memorial. And Mary must also be present in the life of every Christian through a sincere and profound Marian devotion.”*

L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO 2/14/84

Is there a moment of your life when Mary was not present? She was present at your baptism, at your First Holy Communion, at your confirmation, at every Mass you have attended, at every sacrament you have received. The Russian legend is true! Mary is among her people, drying our tears, encouraging us to a life of prayer and holiness, leading us to Jesus; and ultimately she will usher us into the eternal kingdom. True devotion to Mary does not exclude Jesus, but rather focuses us on Jesus, the perfecter of our faith. At every moment of the day, wherever we are, we can turn our mind’s eye to gaze upon her and acknowledge her presence and that of Jesus, too.

SACRED CONGREGATION  
FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

## Declaration on Masonic Associations

It has been asked whether there has been any change in the Church's decision in regard to Masonic associations since the new Code of Canon Law does not mention them expressly, unlike the previous Code.

This Sacred Congregation is in a position to reply that this circumstance is due to an editorial criterion which was followed also in the case of other associations likewise unmentioned inasmuch as they are contained in wider categories.

Therefore the Church's negative judgement in regard to Masonic associations remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion.

It is not within the competence of local ecclesiastical authorities to give a judgement on the nature of Masonic associations which would imply a derogation from what has been decided above, and this in line with the Declaration of this Sacred Congregation issued on 17 February 1981 (cf. AAS 73 [1981] pp. 240-241 (Published in English language edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, 9 March 1981. Editor's note).

In an audience granted to the undersigned Cardinal Prefect, the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II approved and ordered the publication of this Declaration which had been decided in an ordinary meeting of this Sacred Congregation.

Rome, from the Office of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 26 November 1983.

JOSPEH Card. RATZINGER

*Prefect*

Fr. JEROME HAMER, O.P.

*Titular Archbishop of Lorium  
Secretary*



ST. ATHANASIUS

## Patronal Feast Saint Athanasius, bishop and doctor

Solemn Mass & Sermon  
Wednesday, May 2, 2001  
7:30pm

Saint Theresa of Avila Chapel  
The Revd. William B.  
Palardy, PhD., preaching  
Choir under the direction of  
Edmund Murray

CHRIST'S parable of the shepherd escapes us not by being obscure, but by being so plain. The meaning is so familiar that we overlook it. What does he say? A man cares naturally for his own things. He does not have to make himself care. The shepherd who has bought the ground and fenced the fold and tended the lambs, whose own the sheep are to keep or to sell, cares for them. He would run some risk, rather than see them mauled; if he had only a heavy stick in his hand, he would beat off the wolf. Christ does not boast, as a man among men, that he loves mankind more than any other man, through a higher refinement of virtue. He says that he cares for us as no one else can, because we are his. We do not belong to any other man; we belong to him. His dying for us in this world is the natural effect of his unique care. It is the act of our Creator.

AUSTIN FARRER  
"The Crown of the Year"



## The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,  
Chaplain

worshipping at

Saint Theresa Convent  
Chapel

10 St. Theresa Ave.  
West Roxbury, Mass.

Rectory: 192 Foster Street,  
Brighton, MA 02135-4620

Tel/Fax: (617) 787-0553

Web: <http://www.locutor.net>

**Sundays** 10:30am. Sung Mass, followed by coffee and fellowship in the convent solarium.

**Weds, May 2. St. Athanasius Day,** Solemn Mass, 7:30pm in St. Theresa of Ávila Chapel. A Reception follows.

**May 4-6, Spring Parish Retreat,** St. Benedict Abbey, Still River, Fr. Romanus Cessario, OP, conductor.

**Thurs., May 24, Ascension Day,** Solemn Mass and Sermon at 7:30pm. St. Theresa Convent Chapel.

## ✠ REST IN PEACE ✠

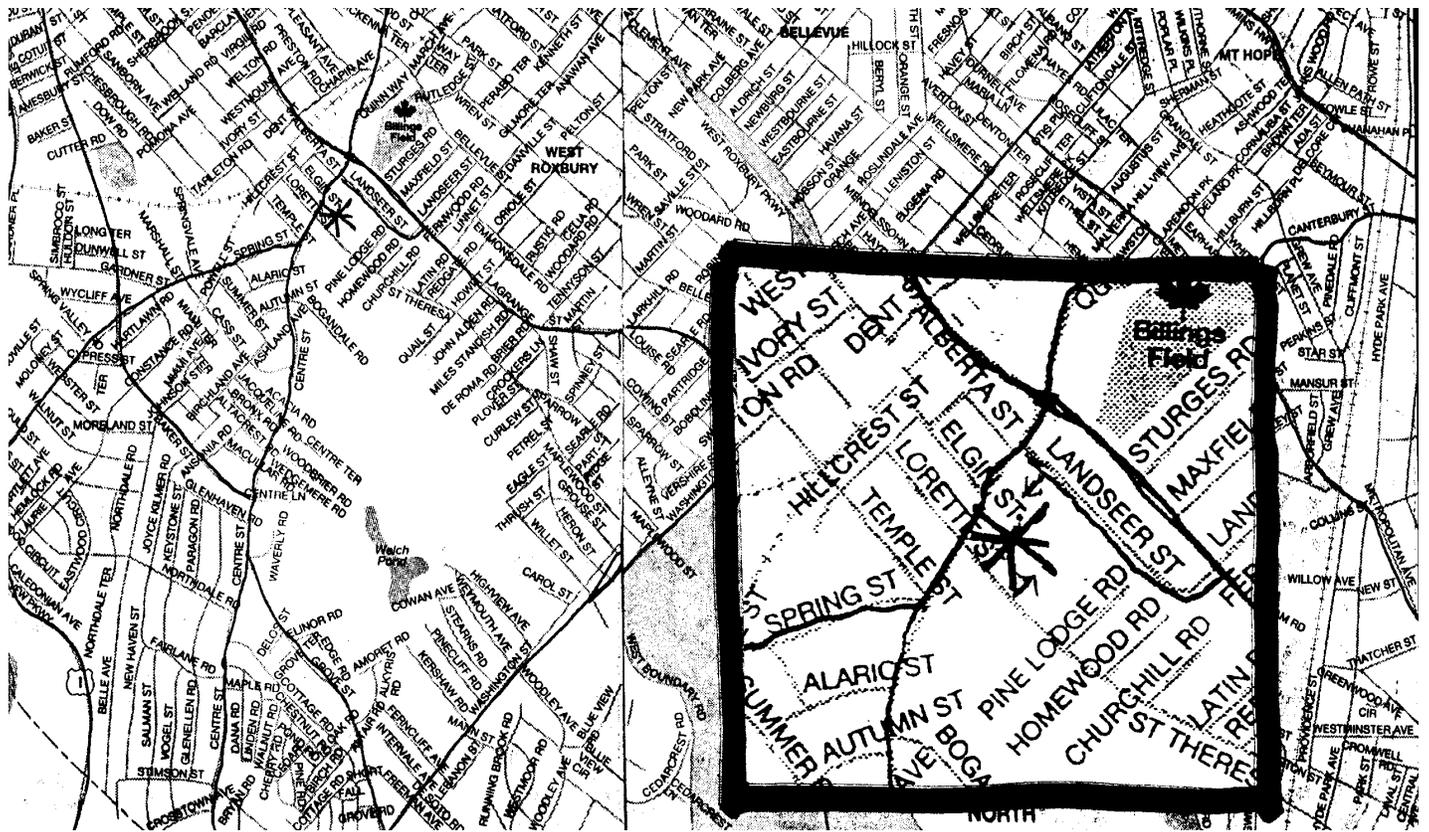
Our parishioner and faithful altar server Ronald Jaynes, went to God at the beginning of April. He was discovered in bed at his home in Wakefield. Ron was 56 years old.

Ronald Jaynes was one of our original group of converts, and was a faithful altar server, taking public transportation to wherever we were meeting, Dedham, Brookline, West Roxbury, and sometimes showing up soaking wet. He never stopped telling us how grateful he was to have become a Catholic. Ron took the name Paul at his confirmation. May he rest in peace!

A funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Theresa of Ávila chapel on Friday in Easter Week. Father Bradford was joined by Father Joseph Wilson, Father James O'Driscoll, Deacon Michael Connolly, and many members of the congregation, among friends and relatives. Extra copies of the sermon and the Mass leaflet are available.



The Good Shepherd ★



# Contra Mundum

The Congregation of St. Athanasius  
10 St. Theresa Avenue  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

